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Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01002 261045Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /110 W
----------079157 261233Z /43
R 250927Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7490
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1002

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV IC
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON ICELAND

REF: (A) STATE 159747 (B) STATE 37591 (C) REYKJAVIK 462
(D) REYKJAVIK 424 (NOTAL) (E) REYKJAVIK 404
(F) 76 REYKJAVIK 258 (NOTAL)

1. POLITICAL OFFICER CALVIN MICHAEL KONNER IS MULTI-
LATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

2. REFS C, D AND E WHICH CONCERNED NORDIC FOREIGN
MINISTERS' MEETING IN REYKJAVIK IN MARCH ALSO PROVIDED
COMMENTS ON ICELANDIC (AND GENERAL NORDIC) VIEWS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS AND NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES.

3. INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF F WHICH RESPONDED
TO PARA 7 OF STATE 37591 REMAINS GENERALLY VALID WITH
FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:
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(A) SINCE FISHERIES DISPUTE OVER 200-MILE LIMIT WITH UK
HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED (FROM ICELANDIC POINT OF
VIEW), THIS ISSUE NO LONGER HAS SAME OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE
THAT IT DID LAST YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, LOS MATTERS IN
GNERAL--AND FISHERIES ISSUES IN PARTICULAR--REMAIN
ICELAND'S PRIORITY CONCERNS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

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(B) ON MOST ISSUES IN WHICH IMPORTANT ICELANDIC INTERESTS
ARE NOT INVOLVED, ICELAND WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK TO COORDINATE
POSITION WITH FELLOW NORDICS AND WILL USUALLY LET OTHER
NORDICS GET OUT IN FRONT.

(C) STILL VALID.

(D) REGULAR ICELANDIC DELEGATION IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY
ONE REPRESENTATIVE, IN ADVISORY CAPACITY, FROM EACH OF THE
FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT.
ALTHOUGH THESE FIVE REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOT VOTING MEMBERS
OF THE DELEGATION THEY DO INFLUENCE GOI POSITION ON CERTAIN
ISSUES. IN CASE OF LOS MATTERS, ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR TO
U.S. HANS G. ANDERSEN IS CONSIDERED TO BE ICELAND'S
PRINCIPAL EXPOERT AND HIS VIEWS IN THIS FIELD PLAY A
MAJOR ROLE IN FORMULATION OF GOI FINAL POSITIONS.

(E) GOI OFFICIALS ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO GIVE U.S. REPRE-
SENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES A FAIR HEARING AND ARE
QUITE RECEPTIVE TO RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
BACKGROUND MATERIALS ON OUR VIEWS OR POSITIONS. WHILE
GOI OFFICIALS APPRECIATE FACT THAT US-ICELANDIC INTERACTIONS
ON SUCH ISSUES ARE FACTORS IN OUR OVERALL BILATERAL
RELATIONS, THEY STILL FEEL FREE TO VOTE IN WAY
IN WHICH THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS OR DOMESTIC POLITICAL
CONSERATIONS SEEM TO BE BEST SERVED. CONTACTS WITH FELLOW
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NORDICS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS. MOREOVER,
WHILE MFA OFFICIALS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. REPRESENATIONS,
SMALL MFA STAFF (TOTAL OF LESS THAN FORTY OFFICERS SERVING
BOTH IN ICELAND AND ABROAD) LIMITS OR EVEN PRECLUDES
ABILITY OF GOI TO FOCUS ON MANY ISSUES WHICH ARE OF A
HIGH PRIORITY TO U.S. BUT OF ONLY MARGINAL DIRECT INTEREST
TO ICELAND. GOI RARELY APPROACHES US FOR SUPPORT ON
MULTILATERAL MATTERS BUT DOES OCCASIONALLY ASK FOR DETAILED
INFORMATION ON U.S. POSITIONS ON CERTAIN SUBJECTS
(E.G. CSCE) IN CASES WHERE LOCAL EXPERTISE MAY BE A BIT THIN.

4. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE GOI DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED
BY FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON AND WILL INCLUDE
OLAFUR EGILSSON, COUNSELLOR AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE MFA
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION AND ONE OTHER, AS YET UNNAMED,
MEMBER OF MFA, IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE ADVISORS FROM THE
POLITICAL PARTIES MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARA 3(D).

5. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE ONLY ICELANDIC CANDIDATE
FOR MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION POSITION CURRENTLY
UNDER CONSIDERATION IS FOR SEAT ON GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR
UN ENVIROMENTAL PROGRAM. THIS REPORTEDLY CONCERNS A

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POSITION WHICH ROTATES AMONG THE NORDICS. USG SUPPORT FOR
THE ICELANDIC CANDIDATE HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN REQUESTED.
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